Wheat supplied to Iraq

†2586. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat was to be supplied from India to Iraq, if so, the quantity thereof and the quantity of wheat which has been already supplied to Iraq so far;

(b) whether Iraq has rejected the wheat, if so, the reasons therefor and the quantity thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government would utilise the wheat which has been sent back and whether any financial loss has been incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A quantity of 3.5 lakh MTs of wheat was contracted with the Grain Board of Iraq. Iraq has rejected to total quantity of 74.018 MT shipped. Quality specifications prescribed in the Iraqi contract provided for the presence of foreign matter upto 2%. There was no further break-up of this 2% into organic and inorganic foreign matter. As per the International CODEX standards, foreign matter in the grain is permissible upto 2% out of which 1.5% consists of reorganic matter, such as, chaff, weed seeds, other edible and non-edible grains, etc. and the balance (0.5%) inorganic foreign matter, such as, stones, dust etc. The Iraqi authorities however, do not count sand, stones, pebbles, clay particles etc. under foreign matter. The exporters did not know this position. The presumed that, as in the CODEX standards, the 2% foreign matter would include 0.5% in organic matter. Iraqi flour mills do not have adequate facilities for separation of inorganic matter because of the problem of spare parts required for maintenance of such machines owing to UN sanctions.

(c) The consignments were reportedly diverted by the exporters to other destinations in Middle East where the buyers accepted the same. No financial loss has been incurred by the Government.

Reflxation of prices of PDS wheat and rice

2587. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat distributed through the Public Distribution System

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.